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DARK HORSE
COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS

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GODZILLA: BLAST FROM THE PAST PART 2 OF 2

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PREDATOR: THE PRIDE AT NGHASA PART 2 OF 3

WRITER: CHUCK DIXON
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JAMES BOND: LIGHT OF MY DEATH PART 4 OF 4

WRITER: DAS PETROU
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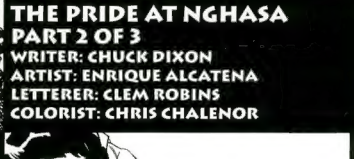

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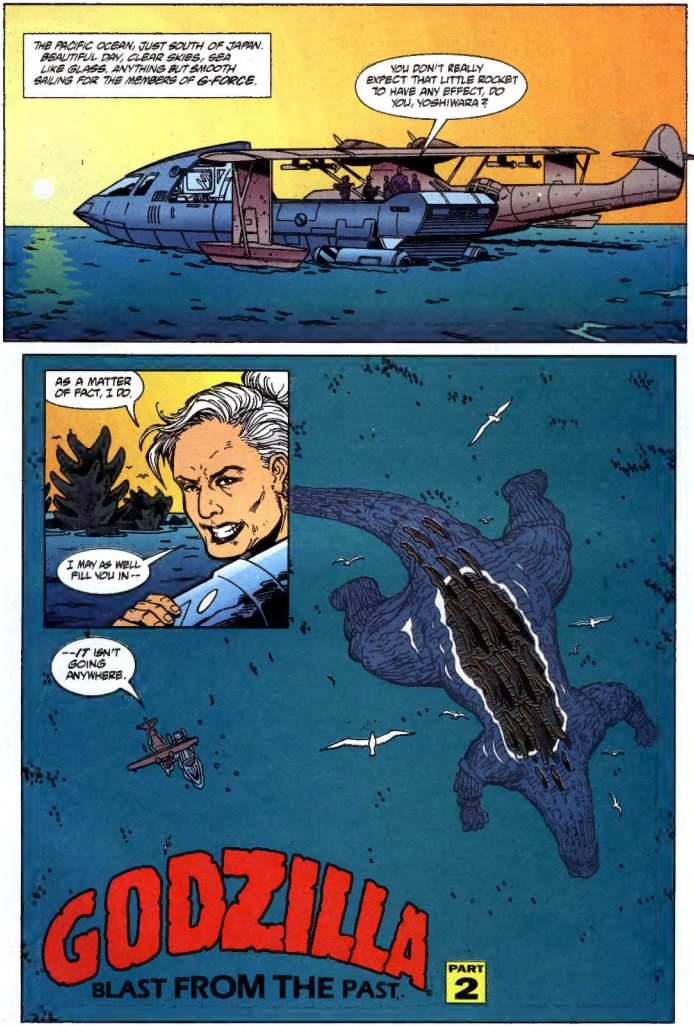
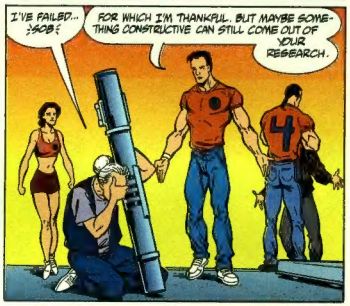

THE PACIFIC OCEAN, JUST SOUTH OF JAPAN. A BEAUTIFUL DAY, CLEAR SKIES. SEA LIKE GLASS. ANYTHING BUT SMOOTH SAILING FOR THE MEMBERS OF G-FORCE.
YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT THAT LITTLE ROCKET TO HAVE ANY EFFECT, DO YOU, YOSHIWARA?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO.
I MAY AS WELL FILL YOU IN --
--IT ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
GODZILLA
BLAST FROM THE PAST
PART 2

AS YOU KNOW, KAZUSHI, LIKE YOU, I'VE MADE GODZILLA MY LIFE'S WORK. BUT I WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN THE PURE RESEARCH THAT DRIVES YOU AND YOUR TEAM.
"GODZILLA'S ATTACK ON TOKYO FORTY YEARS AGO TOOK MY PARENTS FROM ME...DESTROYED MY WHOLE WORLD. I WAS LEFT WITH ONLY TWO THINGS--
"...MY HATRED, AND ONE OF THE MONSTER'S SCALES."
YOU HAVE A PIECE OF GODZILLA? WE'VE BEEN TRYING FOR YEARS TO OBTAIN A TISSUE SAMPLE!*
EASY, DOC.
KAZUSHI, PLEASE.
*AS SEEN IN LAST YEAR'S GODZILLA COLOR SPECIAL.
"I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF MY RESEARCH MATERIAL--AND ALL OF MY FATHER'S--AFTER MY MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED.
"THAT SCALE SAVED MY LIFE--IT GAVE PURPOSE TO MY EXISTENCE AND IT DID MORE THAN THAT--"
--IT REVEALED TO ME THE SECRET OF GODZILLA'S GENETIC STRUCTURE. WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I FOUND A WAY TO END THE MONSTER'S LIFE.
NORIKO, THERE'S NO REASON TO KILL GODZILLA. THE INFORMATION YOU'VE UNCOVERED COULD JUST AS EASILY SHOW US A WAY TO CONTROL HIM--
YOU'RE NOT HEARING WHAT I'M SAYING--

GODZILLA MUST DIE!
FWOOOOSH
SKREE SKREE
SKREEEE
SH-THUNK

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
IT TOOK ME YEARS TO DEVELOP THAT POISON... YEARS MORE TO MANUFACTURE A DOSE LARGE ENOUGH TO KILL GODZILLA...MY WHOLE LIFE...
I ONLY HAD THAT ONE SHOT...

YEAH, AND THAT'S ALL YOU'RE GETTING.
UHH!
SMAK


I'VE FAILED... :SOB:
FOR WHICH I'M THANKFUL. BUT MAYBE SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE CAN STILL COME OUT OF YOUR RESEARCH.

LET GO OF ME!
YEAH, RIGHT. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE YOUR GUN BACK WHILE I'M AT IT, eh?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THESE TWO, DOC?

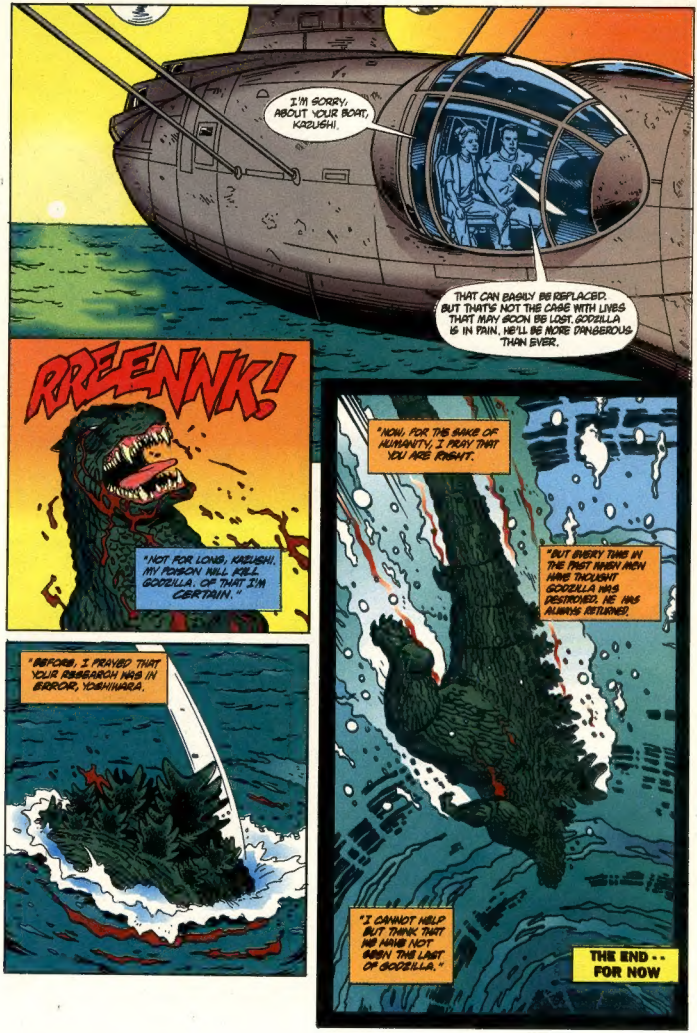
WELL, KINO, I DON'T SEE WHAT FURTHER HARM THEY CAN DO AT THIS POINT...
UH, DR. K--?

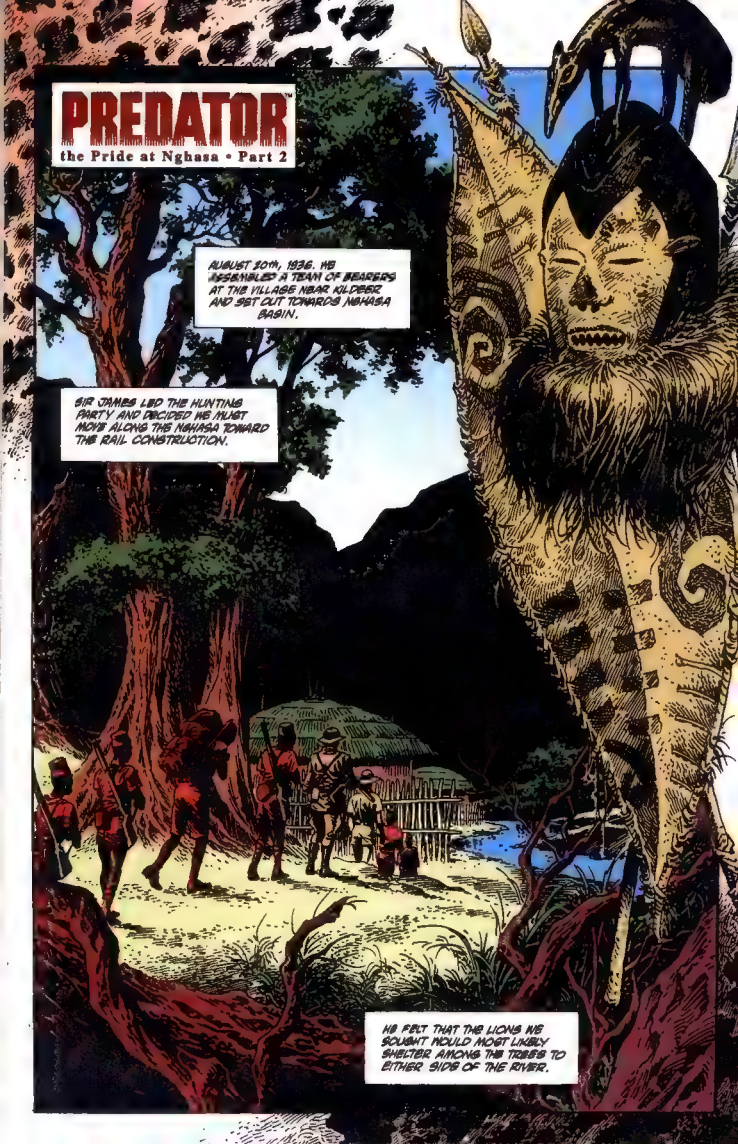
--I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THIS--

"--OUR GODZILLA MONITORS ARE LIT UP LIKE RAPONSI. I THINK HE MIGHT BE WAKING UP."
AWWK-!
"CORRECTION--HE'S DEFINITELY WAKING UP!"
SSKREE-EEONGK

MY POISON ..IT'S HAVING AN EFFECT!
THIS IS NO TIME TO GLOAT-- WE'RE SITTING DUCKS OUT HERE!
I'LL START THE ENGINES!
THERE'S NO TIME, KINO!
REIKO'S RIGHT! EVERY-BODY ON THE PLANE!
I HOPE YOU'VE TAKEN AS GOOD A CARE OF THE ENGINES AS YOU HAVE THE REST OF THIS BIRD!
YOU JUST GET ON BOARD, SON. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT SHE CAN DO!
GREAT, AS LONG AS YOU CAN SHOW ME IN THE NEXT TEN SECONDS-- GODZILLA'S SPOTTED US!
RRRMMMM
RRROHHNK

RRMMMMM
IT'S GONNA BE--
RMMMMM
--CLOSE!
I TOLD YOU SHE COULD DO IT!
KREEONK
MOTHRA, FATHER, THIS IS FOR YOU!


I'M SORRY, ABOUT YOUR BOAT, KAZUSHI.
THAT CAN EASILY BE REPLACED. BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE WITH LIVES THAT MAY SOON BE LOST. GODZILLA IS IN PAIN. HE'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER.
RREENNK!
"NOT FOR LONG, KAZUSHI. MY POISON WILL KILL GODZILLA. OF THAT I'M CERTAIN."
"NOW, FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY, I PRAY THAT YOU ARE RIGHT.
"BUT EVERY TIME IN THE PAST WHEN MEN HAVE THOUGHT GODZILLA WAS DESTROYED, HE HAS ALWAYS RETURNED.
"BEFORE, I PRAYED THAT YOUR RESEARCH WAS IN ERROR, YOSHIHARA.
"I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK THAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF GODZILLA."
THE END - - FOR NOW


PREDATOR
the Pride at Nghasa • Part 2
AUGUST 30th, 1836. HE ASSEMBLES A TEAM OF BEARERS AT THE VILLAGE NEAR KILDEER AND SET OUT TOWARDS NGHASA BASIN.
SIR JAMES LED THE HUNTING PARTY AND DECIDED WE MUST MOVE ALONG THE NGHASA TOWARD THE RAIL CONSTRUCTION.
HE FELT THAT THE LIONS WE SOUGHT WOULD MOST LIKELY SHELTER AMONG THE TREES TO EITHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS VILLAGE WAS OCCUPIED, JOHNNY.
IT WAS, IT IS. REGGIE AND I WERE THROUGH HERE JUST LAST WEEK, SIR JAMES.
MAYBE HE SCARED THE FELLOWS, EH?
VERY SCARED, BUT NOT OF US.
DU DU YA PORINI, SHEB. BADMASH NYIKA.
WHAT'S THIS ONE ON ABOUT, JOHNNY?
A DEVIL OF THE WOODS. DON'T UNDERSTAND THE REST.
CAN YOUR MAN TRANSLATE FOR US?

HE SAYS A FOREST DEVIL LURED THE MEN OF THE VILLAGE INTO THE BUSH AND KILLED THEM.
NOT FOR FOOD BUT ONLY TO KILL.
HE SAYS IT IS THE HUNTING STAR. THE STAR THAT COMES FROM THE SKY TO HUNT MEN.
THE OLD BOY IS FOXING US. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
I'M NOT SO CERTAIN.
IT WAS NO LION THAT MADE THIS BLAST HOLE.
BLOODY HELL. SO WHERE'D THE MEN OF THIS VILLAGE GO, EH?
DIXON-ALCATENA
A BOLT OF LIGHTNING, I'D SAY. THAT'S YOUR DEUCED HUNTING STAR.
HE SAYS ONE OF THE VILLAGERS SAW THE FOREST DEVIL. CAN LEAD US TO HIM.
REALLY.
THE FOREST DEVIL SHOWED HIMSELF TO HIM.
WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIM.

THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS. UTTER NONSENSE.
WE'VE FOUND NO LION SPOOR, SIR JAMES. PERHAPS THE GIRL IS THE ONLY WAY WE'LL FIND THE PRIDE.
HM.!
ALL THIS TALK ABOUT FOREST DEVILS AND KILLING STARS JUST BECAUSE SOME KAFFIR GOT A HOLE IN HIS BUNGALOW IS CERTAIN TO PUT THE FEAR IN THE BEARER BOYS. WHAT THEN, EH?
THEY'RE STOUT FELLOWS. THEY'LL HOLD.
WHAT'S SHE FOUND NOW?
THAT REEK. NOT LION'S PISS. SOMETHING ELSE.
CARNAGE. IT WAS PURE SLAUGHTER. EVERY MAN FROM THE VILLAGE HUNG LIKE BEEF GONE TO MARKET.
YOUR BOYS WILL BOLT FOR CERTAIN NOW, JOHNNY. THIS IS BAD MEDICINE.
MY LORD...

NO LION DID THAT, AND NO DEVIL EITHER. BY GAD I'LL GRANT YOU THAT. YOU'VE GOT A REVOLT ON YOUR HANDS HEREABOUTS, MR. COPELAND.
WE'VE HAD NO PROBLEMS...
NO PROBLEMS? THIS IS HOW IT STARTS. THE KAFFIRS BUTCHER A PEW OF THEIR OWN AND BLAME IT ON THE SAHIBS. THEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
WHAT THE DEVIL IS GOING ON HERE?
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE WE DON'T QUITE FATHOM, RAS.
REVOLUTION IS WHAT IT IS. THE BLACK BASTARDS WANT TO THROW US OFF.
REALLY, SIR JAMES...
THAT'S WHY THEY ATTACKED THE RAIL GANGS FIRST. IT'S A SYMBOL, DON'T YOU SEE?
STOP THE RAILS AND STOP THE WHITE MAN. STOP-PING CIVILIZATION IS WHAT THEY'RE DOING...
THERE'S NO CALL FOR THAT, SIR JAMES...
DON'T CONTRADICT ME, MR. COPELAND...
THERE'S NO NEED...

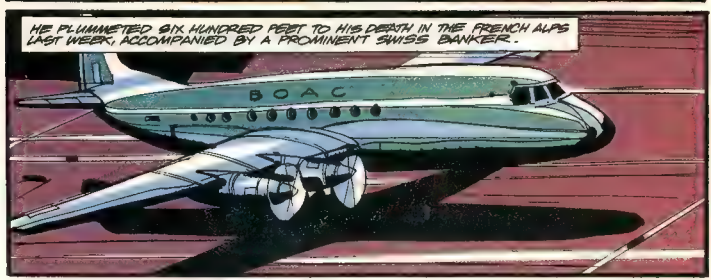
GOOD LORD!
WE'RE BEING FIRED UPON! LAY DOWN SOME ROUNDS IN THAT TREELINE!
JULD!!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HE'S BEEN CUT IN TWO!
SHAITAN!
UNNH!
IN SIGHT OF SUCH HORROR EVEN THE STOUTEST FELLOW WILL GIVE IN TO PANIC.

THE BEARERS' WILD AND UNTRAINED SHOTS STRUCK AROUND US.
AAH!
BLAM
REG!
BLAM
AS ONE MAN, THEY RUSHED AWAY TO SPREAD THE STORY OF THE DUDU YA PORINI.
FOR CHRIST'S MERCY, WANJI. HELP ME HERE. REGGIE'S DYING.
WANJI!
IT WAS NOT UNTIL THAT MOMENT THAT I NOTED WANJI'S GLASSY STARE.
AND THE CRIMSON BLOSSOM SPREADING ACROSS THE CLOTH OF HIS SHIRTFRONT.

A STINK LIKE OFFAL AND BLOOD AND PISS ASSAILED ME.
I WENT COLD AS ICE IN THE AFRICAN HEAT.
I KNEW HIM STRAIGHT AWAY.
THE HUNTING STAR BROUGHT HIM.
HE WAS THE FORBST DEVIL.
TO BE CONTINUED!

FRIDAY. CAIRO.
JAMES BOND 007
LICHT OF MY DEATH
PART 4
DENNIS ROGERS WAS IN THE SECRET SERVICES.
I SAW HIM INFREQUENTLY AT THE BACKGAMMON TABLES OF ST. JAMES'S. ON ONE OR TWO OCCASIONS WE EXCHANGED GLANCES AT THE ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S...

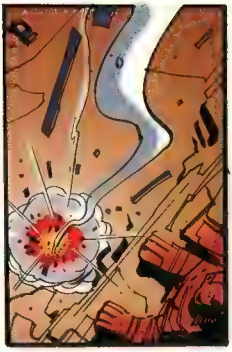
...THOUGH AT NO TIME COULD IT BE TRULY SAID THAT WE EVER ACTUALLY CONVERSED.
SADLY, ALL OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT HAS NOW PASSED.


HE PLUMMETED SIX HUNDRED FEET TO HIS DEATH IN THE FRENCH ALPS LAST WEEK, ACCOMPANIED BY A PROMINENT SWISS BANKER.
BOAC

IT WAS AN EXTREMELY MODERN MURDER, CARRIED OUT BY A KILLER USING METHODS NOT DISSIMILAR TO ONE OF THOSE SCIENCE FICTION FILMS THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN INFLICTING US WITH OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. SOME SORT OF LASER GUN.
HE'S OBVIOUSLY VERY BRIGHT.
BUT I THINK I'M ON TO HIM.
IS BOOTHROYD HERE?
YES, JAMES, EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE.
ARE WE O.K. FOR TIME? HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE US TO DRIVE THERE?
IT WILL BE FINE, JAMES. THE DRUGGISTS ARE NOT OFFICIALLY DUE TO ARRIVE BY HELICOPTER AT GIZA UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK.

TANIA?
MM?
HA HA HA HA! I AM SORRY TO LAUGH, DUSCHKA, BUT YOU HAD ALL MONDAY NIGHT TO ASK ME THAT. IT WAS JUST AFTER WE HANDED OVER THE LECTOR, IF YOU MUST KNOW.
WHEN DID YOU DYE YOUR HAIR?
I THOUGHT ABOUT PLASTIC SURGERY BUT...
STOP THE CAR.
WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING, JAMES. AREN'T WE A LITTLE BIT EARLY ANYWAY? I'LL DRIVE CLOSER AND--
CHUNK

KA-BOOOM!



TANIA STAY HERE! WHATEVER HAPPENS AND TRY TO GET BOOTHROYD ON THE RADIO.

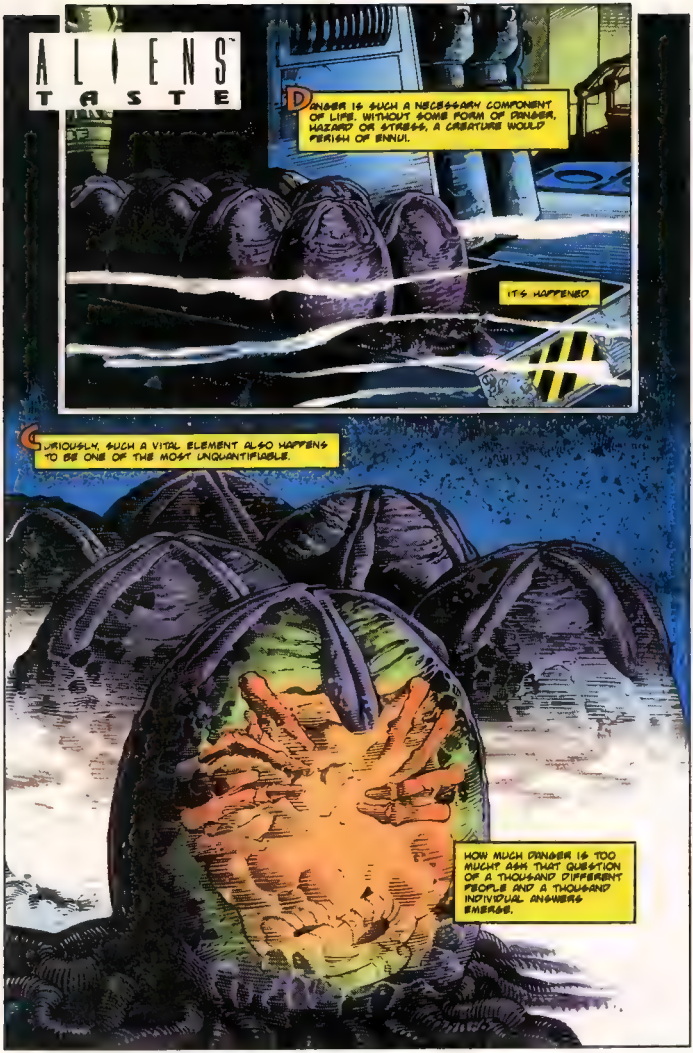
IT LOOKS AS IF I OWE BOOTHROYD ANOTHER COURVOISIER V.S.O.P. HIS REMOTE CONTROLLED HELICOPTER, ABSOLUTELY PILOTLESS AND PASSENGERLESS, HAS WORKED LIKE A CHARM.

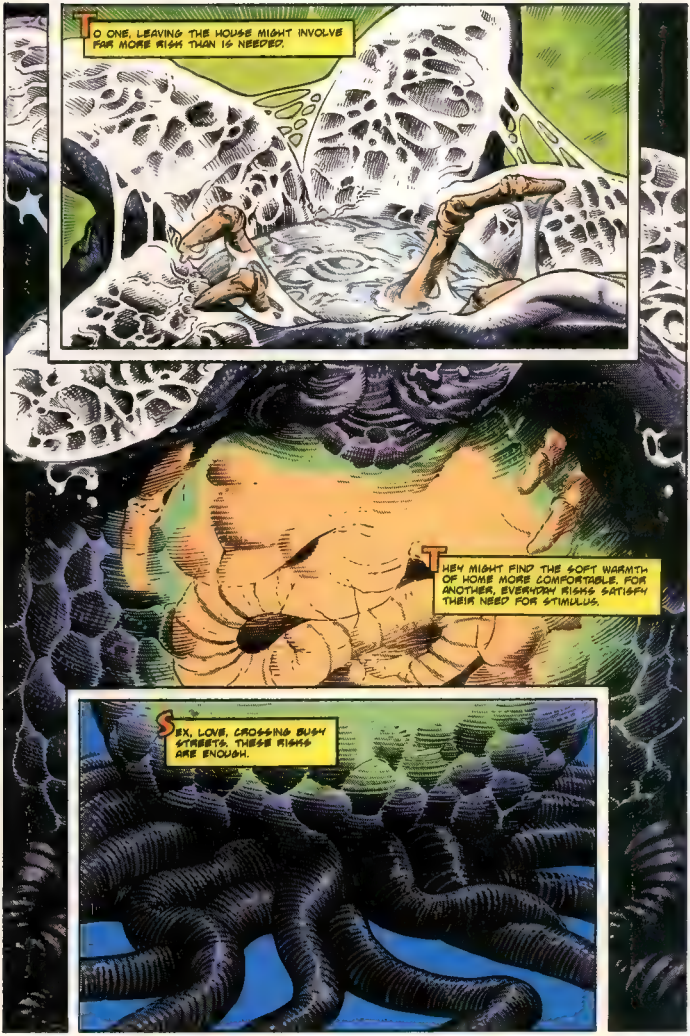
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A STRUGGLE CONVINCING THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES TO CANCEL THE DELEGATES' TOUR OF THE NILE, BUT I'M SURE THEY'LL SEE THE REASONING BEHIND OUR REQUEST NOW.

AND NOW THAT THE RAT'S COME OUT OF HIS HOLE, IT'S TIME FOR SOME PEST CONTROL.

UNGH!

UNHH!
YOU'VE BEEN ON TOP OF THE WORLD FOR TOO LONG NOW, MY FRIEND. TIME TO COME DOWN TO EARTH.
NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN.
WELL, WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DEFINITE ON THIS AMOS FELLOW, EXCEPT THAT THERE'S A GOOD PROBABILITY THAT HE'S ABSCONDING WITH A LARGE SLICE OF AMERICA'S FINANCIAL AID TO SOUTH EAST ASIA.
BUT HAVING SAID THAT, YOU DID WELL TO PUT A DANGEROUS KILLER OUT OF CIRCULATION.
IF I MIGHT SAY SO, SIR, I EVEN GAVE HIM A MEAD START.
THANK YOU, 007. THAT'LL BE ALL.


ALIENS™
TASTE
DANGER IS SUCH A NECESSARY COMPONENT OF LIFE. WITHOUT SOME FORM OF DANGER, HAZARD OR STRESS, A CREATURE WOULD PERISH OF ENNUI.
IT'S HAPPENED
CURIOUSLY, SUCH A VITAL ELEMENT ALSO HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST UNQUANTIFIABLE.
HOW MUCH DANGER IS TOO MUCH? ASK THAT QUESTION OF A THOUSAND DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND A THOUSAND INDIVIDUAL ANSWERS EMERGE.


To one, leaving the house might involve far more risk than is needed.
They might find the soft warmth of home more comfortable. For another, everyday risks satisfy their need for stimulus.
Sex, love, crossing busy streets. These risks are enough.

YET ANOTHER MIGHT SCOFF AT THE SIMPLE HAZARDS OF COMMON LIFE, EXHIBITING AN APPETITE FOR MORE PERILOUS SITUATIONS, ENJOYING THE SWEAT-SWEET FLAVOR OF ADRENALINE FLOODING THEIR BODY.
SSSSSSSSSSSS
STILL ANOTHER MIGHT FIND ADRENALINE RUSHES BANAL AND CRAVE SOMETHING FAR MORE DARK AND EXQUISITE; SOME MORSEL OF EXPERIENCE THAT IS SINGULARLY EXHILARATING, UNIQUELY SATISFYING.
DANGER HAS NO SPECIFIC MEASURE, NO OBJECTIVE DEFINITION.

SSSS

LONG SHOTS

10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222

Another changing of the guard. Randy Stradley here, folks. Just for posterity, let's take a quick look at the editors who have presided over this title. Issues #1 through #4 were guided by the hand of Jerry Prosser. When a plethora of new projects, and a new area of responsibility, were added to Jerry's workload, Dan Thorsland and Bob Cooper jumped in to lend support. That was around issue #5. With issue #6, Anina Bennett snuck in as "contributing editor," and by the next issue, Jerry had joined her under that heading. After that, it becomes an unwieldy mess, with everybody and their brother listed as "contributing editors."

Well, that's all changed. As of this issue, we're going to designate participating editors as either "series editor" (that's me), or "story editor" (everybody else). Any questions?

Dear Bob, Dan, Jerry, an' Anina,

Hey there! Since I picked up ***Dark Horse Comics*** #s 6 and 7 simultaneously, here's my comments on both. Gary Gianni's cover to six was excellent. His **"Indiana Jones and the Shrine of the Sea Devil"** story was great. The writing and artwork were both top-notch. The plot reminded me of the adventure serials from the '30s and '40s that inspired the film series. When is the next Indy series coming out?

Sorry, but ***Mad Dogs*** did nothing for me. John Arcudi's script was almost incomprehensible, and I didn't care for Phil Hester's pencils.

RoboCop: Invasions: Now this is good stuff. The plot flowed smoothly and the artwork had lots of detail. Looking forward to future RoboCop projects.

Predator: Blood Feud was a trifle confusing, but nicely written and illustrated, nevertheless.

Finally, ***Tales of the Jedi*** can be summed up in two words: su-perb! Tom Veitch wrote another fabulous story, and Janine Johnston's artwork was impressive. Hope the ***TOJ*** miniseries is as good. See ya in thirty.

Robert Knaus
320 Fisher Street
Walpole, MA 02081

I'm happy to hear that, overall, you're enjoying **DHC**, *Robert.* **Mad Dogs** *may not have been your cup of tea, but you seem to have liked the rest of the offerings. That's the great thing about an anthology — variety. It's like a multi-course dinner. You may not like one dish, but you can still enjoy the meal.*

The next Indy story out of the gate will be Dan Barry's **Thunder in the Orient** *miniseries. Hot on the heels of that will be* **Indiana Jones and the Golden Fleece**, *by writers Dave Rawson and Pat McGreal, and artists Dave Hooper and Stan Woch.*

Dear Bob and Dan:

Re: ***Dark Horse Comics*** #7.

In order of preference:

(1) ***Mad Dogs***: After the Indiana Jones story, this has been my favorite ***DHC*** tale. The fate of Dr. Schwann was excellent; justice if I've ever seen it. I assume the abruptness of the ending is an indication there will be a sequel. Right?

(2) ***RoboCop***: If Dark Horse ever does a monthly ***RoboCop*** title, this is the creative team for it. Grant writes good, gritty stories, and the art by Gnazzo and Patterson was really flashy. By the way, is Coffin based on the WWF wrestler called The Undertaker?

(3) ***Star Wars***: The first ***Tales of the Jedi*** was OK, but as just an introduction, it lacked some depth. I'm sure things will

improve in parts 2 & 3. Janine Johnston is an unfamiliar artist to me, but I loved her work!!

(4) ***Predator***: Maybe I'm suffering from Predator burnout, but I didn't like this series at all. I was bored to see just another Predator clash, it didn't seem to have any special aspect to it. However, the art by Leo Durañona was fantastic! Any chance you could tell me of any other work he's done?

Finally, on the subject of future issues, I'd like to see another Indiana Jones story (by Gary Gianni, of course), more ***Mad Dogs***, a Terminator story, a Grendel story, and please, no more Predators or Aliens for a while.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
5437-F Bradley Pines Cr.
Sandston, VA 23150

No sequel is currently *planned for* **Mad Dogs**, *Kevin, but here's an interesting bit of behind-the-scenes information: The characters in* **Mad Dogs** *were originally intended to be a part of Dark Horse's new superhero line, but they were bumped in favor of some other characters.*

You'll be happy to know that the creative team you liked so much on **RoboCop** *is working on a miniseries entitled,* **RoboCop: Mortal Coils**. *Look for it in September. And, while you're out there looking around, seek out issues of the* **Dark Horse Insider**. *Not only will it tell you about all the latest DH news, but it also features a* **Tales of the Jedi** *serial.*

As for Leo Durañona, check the back-issue bins at your comics shop for his beautiful **Race of Scorpions** *books we published a few years ago.*

I know you asked for a moratorium on **Aliens**, *but I think when you see what we have coming up in the next few months you'll be happy we didn't listen to you. I'll just say this much: Kilian Plunkett. Remember that name, and that you heard it here first.*

Dear Bob and crew,

Dark Horse Comics #5 was very, very good. I did indeed enjoy the last part of ***Aliens: Horror Show***, even though I have never liked any of the movies. I have never read any Aliens stories before, but may go back now and do so.

Predator was good, as was ***Mad Dogs***. I can take or leave Indiana Jones anytime, so for that one... Feh. Overall though, this was quite enjoyable and I am certainly going to keep buying this, especially with such high production values as we have here. This shows the craftsmanship of many folks, all of it very high. Even the Indiana Jones story, which I didn't care for, was well-drawn and written. I just don't like Indy. This is a darned good value for the comics dollar. About ***DHC*** #6, this issue was pretty good, and even though I'm not much on Indy Jones, I liked the surprise ending with Amelia Earhart.

Glad to see RoboCop back. I'm starting to like him too.

Mad Dogs has a lot going on and I am really getting into it. I also like the Predator story. I am amazed that this comic is coming out so fast, though. One on the heels of another, it seems. Fast workers there at Dark Horse, aren't you? I will be looking forward to the next issue avidly. Dark Horse seems to have a very high level of standards as far as art and story quality goes, and I am glad to support you with my comics bucks. Keep up the good work! Until next time...

Carl Pietrantonio
517 Idylwood Lane
Laredo, TX 78041

Yes, Carl, we do have high standards here at Dark Horse. You should see the pile of scripts and artwork that don't make the cut. Each month we build a massive bonfire and all of the editors dance naked around it... uh, er, I mean, we try to bring you only the finest work by the finest creators.

See you all next issue, where we debut two outstanding stories, **Aliens: Backsplash**, *featuring the stunning work of Kilian Plunkett and* **Predator: Bad Blood**, *scripted by Evan Dorkin and drawn by Derek Thompson and Ande Parks.*

— Randy

John Byrne's
Next Men™
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO READ.
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John Byrne's Next Men #16 • written and illustrated by John Byrne • color cover by John Lyrne • $2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada • 32 color pages • monthly • SEPTEMBER 1993
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

DARK HORSE COMICS PROJECT PROFILE

ALIENS
LABYRINTH

Written by Jim Woodring
Illustrated by Kilian Plunkett

Aliens: Labyrinth, a four-issue limited series from Dark Horse Comics, is the product of an unlikely creative team. The writer, **Jim Woodring**, is a self-taught comics artist who lives in Seattle; he has worked in the comics industry for over twenty years. The illustrator, **Kilian Plunkett**, is a 22-year-old art school graduate of his native Ireland, and marks his comics debut with this series.

Woodring is perhaps best known for *Frank in The River* and *Tantalizing Stories* (both from Tundra Publishing) which have received seven Harvey Award nominations for Woodring and co-creator Mark Martin. Woodring's comics have also been featured in numerous anthologies, including *Pictopia*, *Hyena*, and *The Best of the Decade*. Woodring's most personal, surrealistic work, *JIM*, was recently collected as *The Book of JIM* (Fantagraphics Books); in the preface, Woodring wrote: "I grew up believing that horror is not only fun but sacred. Horror for me was a divine emotion which accompanied the reception of nuclear tidings."

Woodring's first foray into writing for comics was the adaptation of Tod Browning's classic film, *Freaks* (Monster Comics). When Dark Horse editor Ryder Windham (formerly of Monster) was assigned to develop an *Aliens* miniseries, he contacted Woodring. "The *Freaks* series was not a standard, traced-off-the-screen adaptation of the film. Jim brought his own sensibilities to the story. He paced his scripts so everything was eerily subdued, then unfolded into a disturbing, truly frightening horror comic. I knew he would write a fine miniseries for *Aliens*.

"As the first *Alien* film could be likened to a gothic horror story in outer space, *Aliens: Labyrinth* could be read as a murder thriller. The setting is a remote space station, where a group of scientists study behavioral responses of Aliens. The experiments are carefully monitored, and every safety precaution is considered, so the crew is genuinely shocked when a technician is killed by an Alien. A doctor suspects that the death may not have been an accident, and tries to uncover the truth. The murder investigation evolves into a deceiving, sinuous nightmare. "I really wasn't sure how Jim intended to end **Labyrinth** until I read his final script," said Windham. "It surprised me, and put a knot in my stomach."

Since most of the story takes place on a space station, Windham searched for an artist who was capable with technical backgrounds as well as figures. He remembered when he first saw Plunkett's unsolicited art samples. "There were several drawings of fantastic creatures, including a Predator, but what really caught my attention was a gantomatic community in which a well-dressed man and woman walk through a garden; another man runs into the garden, and his head seemingly spontaneously explodes. The rendering was astonishing. I offered Kilian a tryout for *Aliens* on the spot.

"In the first chapter of **Labyrinth**, the protagonist, Colonel Doctor Anthony Crespi, mentions that he had an earlier run-in with Aliens. I asked Jim if he would write *that* story for Kilian." Woodring and Plunkett produced a kinetic adventure serial, *Aliens: Backsplash*, for **Dark Horse Comics**. "It's more than a little grizzly," said Windham. "Readers will really have to brace themselves for this one."

"I've been drawing Giger's creature," said Plunkett, "since I saw the original *Alien*, which I think is the best film in the series, so it's great to get paid to do it. I hope anyone interested in goo, bizarre extraterrestrial reproductive habits, slime, and teeth will pick up **Labyrinth**."

Woodring expressed similar sentiments: "I hope that **Aliens: Labyrinth** will entertain, perplex and shock readers, and leave 'em lying in the sawdust, clawing at the ceiling, and croaking heart-breakingly for more."

Readers can get their first look at Woodring and Plunkett's collaborative effort, *Aliens: Backsplash*, in **Dark Horse Comics #12** and **13**.

Aliens: Labyrinth #1 of 4 is priced at $2.50, and ships September 21, 1993.

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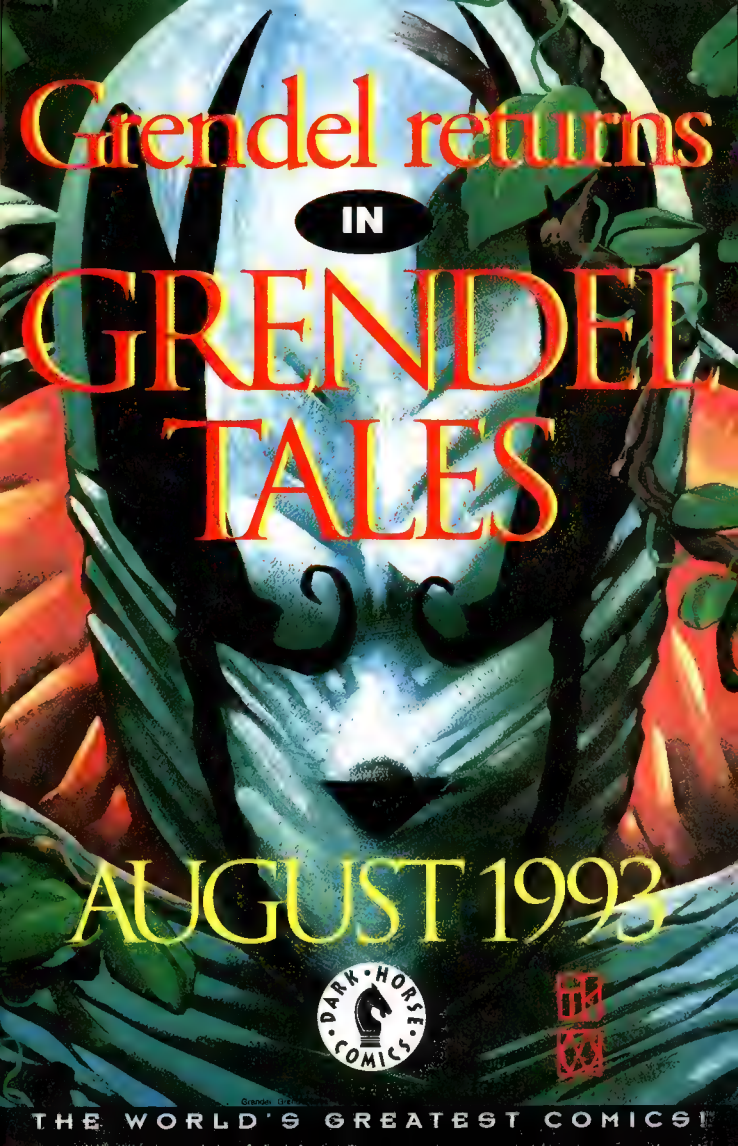
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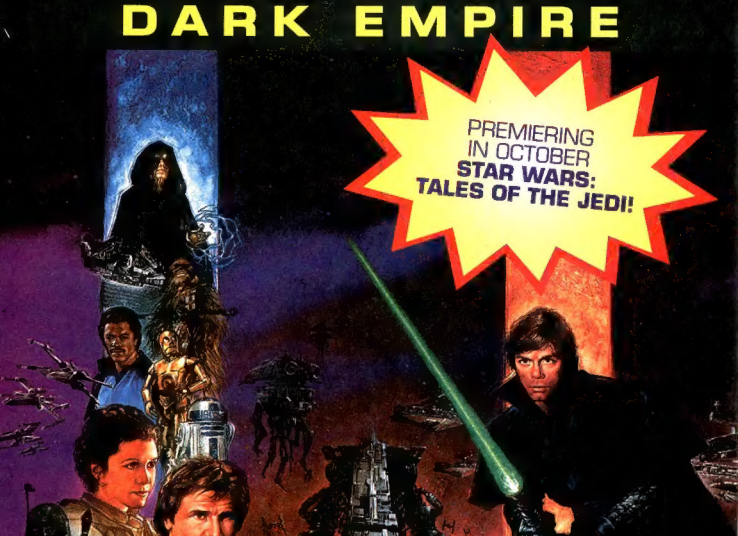

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FINISH LINE

For the first few months of this year, you've been hearing from some of the editorial staff in this column. Last month, John Dennett from marketing wrote a few words about our convention schedule this summer. You may have noticed lots of names from marketing on that convention schedule, so I thought I would explain a little bit about who we are and what we do.

I am **Ronnie Noize**, the vice president of marketing and sales. My job is to plan, direct and coordinate the policies and activities of the marketing department, and to develop our sales department.

The marketing and sales division at Dark Horse Comics is responsible for the sale and public presentation of our product (comics, trade paperbacks, model kits, lithographs, etc.), and the creation of specialty promotional and retail-specific items (special editions, collector's packs, card inserts, pins, posters and all sorts of other goodies).

Allow me to introduce the people who make this happen:

Kris Young, solicitations editor, is a familiar name to our *Insider* readers. "The *Insider* gives comics readers an inside look at hot new titles coming from Dark Horse Comics," says Kris. The monthly comic-book format magazine, available through most comic retailers, also includes an ongoing comic strip (currently *Tales of the Jedi*), a variety of comics-related features, sneak previews, contests, and the popular lettercol "The Horse's Mouth." In addition to editing the *Insider*, Kris also edits the *Tip Sheet*, our monthly solicitation catalogue that is sent to retailers and distributors, and the *San Diego Comic Con Comics* #2, featuring exciting new work from Frank Miller, John Byrne, Arthur Adams, Mike Mignola, Don Martin, Paul Chadwick, Rick Geary, and Geof Darrow!

Publicity coordinator **John Dennett** is responsible for media coverage of our books, plus arranging creator interviews for magazines, composing press releases and ads, and keeping the marketing coffee pot filled. "The thing I enjoy most about my job is being able to introduce people to the world of comics, and doing my part to make comics as accessible and acceptable a form of entertainment to the general public as movies, music, or TV," says John.

David Weigel, our media and design manager, oversees the marketing design department. Dave also arranges our advertising, tracks the progress of the production of ads, posters and specialty products, and generally makes sure that we have all the promotional stuff that we're supposed to have.

The guys who actually create the ads, posters, insert cards, *Insider*, *Tip Sheet*, T-shirts, and the other stuff from marketing are designers **Ray Gruen**, **Joe Kamei** and **Egon Selby**. They work mostly on computers, manipulating the scanned images and line art into whatever format we need to use. Production artist **Evelyn Harris** works part-time in marketing to assist with the layout and paste-up of the *Insider* and *Tip Sheet*, and she creates our foam-core displays used for conventions and creator appearances.

David Desjardins, retail promotion coordinator, assists retailers with any questions they might have, as well as providing exciting promotional materials for displays, co-op advertising, and creator tours. Dave also works with John to put together a monthly preview book of current works in progress that is sent out to distributor warehouses, some comic shops, and the media.

Heather Gridley coordinates our convention and trade show appearances, edits our staff newsletter, and arranges our hospitality, which includes tours of the Dark Horse Comics offices, staff meetings (we're talking lunch for 90 people!), plus all the parties and other functions we sponsor.

The newest member of our team is **Michael Cox**, who handles our mail order sales. You can call Michael directly at 1-800-862-0052 from 1-4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time to order our comics by credit card. For a mail order catalogue, just write to Michael at Dark Horse Comics Mail Order, 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222.

JULY CHECKLIST

SHIPPING JULY 13

- ☐ ACCIDENT MAN #3
- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #1.0 (U.K. EDITION)
- ☐ ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #1
- ☐ AMERICAN SPLENDOR #17
- ☐ CHEVAL NOIR #44
- ☐ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #76
- ☐ THE DIRTY PAIR: SIM HELL #3
- ☐ GOLDEN CITY— WEEK 1: REBEL
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN#16
- ☐ LUX & ALBY #4
- ☐ PROPELLERMAN #4
- ☐ THE VENUS WARS II #12

SHIPPING JULY 20

- ☐ CARAVAN KIDD PART 2 #3
- ☐ GOLDEN CITY— WEEK 2: MECHA
- ☐ GRENDEL: DEVIL BY THE DEED
- ☐ HARD LOOKS #9
- ☐ ROBOCOP 3 #1
- ☐ STAR WARS #7 (U.K. EDITION)
- ☐ TANK GIRL II #2
- ☐ VERSION #1.6

SHIPPING JULY 27

- ☐ ALIENS: ROGUE #4
- ☐ DARK HORSE COMICS #11
- ☐ REDBLADE #2
- ☐ SEX WARRIOR #2
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #19
- ☐ THE EUDAEMON #1
- ☐ GOLDEN CITY— WEEK 3: TITAN
- ☐ NEXUS FIGURINE
- ☐ ORION #6

SHIPPING AUGUST 3

- ☐ CLASSIC STAR WARS #11
- ☐ GOLDEN CITY— WEEK 4: CATALYST: AGENTS OF CHANGE

SHIPPING AUGUST 31

- ☐ NEXUS BOOK TWO (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ☐ THE VENUS WARS VOLUME ONE (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)

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